

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 24865 01 OF 02 251726Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 /073 W

----- 122006

R 251806Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3479

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 24865

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR,UR

SUBJECT: REPORT OF GISCARD'S TV INTERVIEW ON DEFENSE

1. SUMMARY: THERE ARE REPORTS OF RADIO-TV INTERVIEW
BY GISCARD EARLY IN OCTOBER TO BE FOCUSED ON DEFENSE.
TIMING OF INTERVIEW MAY BE INFLUENCED BY GISCARD'S
WISH TO DISPOSE OF DEFENSE QUESTION AS POTENTIAL
AGENDA ITEM FOR HIS VISIT TO USSR, AND TO DIVERT
PUBLIC ATTENTION FROM ECONOMIC ISSUES. PLANNED TV
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 24865 01 OF 02 251726Z

INTERVIEW ADDS ONE MORE REASON TO WELCOME SECRETARY

SCHLESINGER'S VISIT AND OPPORTUNITY IT OFFERS TO
INFLUENCE GISCARD'S THINKING ON DEFENSE. END SUMMARY.

2. MATIGNON SOURCE TOLD US THAT PRESIDENT GISCARD
IS PLANNING A RADIO-TV INTERVIEW EARLY IN OCTOBER
WHICH WOULD FOCUS ON DEFENSE AND THUS SERVE AS A
MEDIUM FOR GISCARD TO ANNOUNCE MAJOR POLICY DECISIONS
CONCERNING FRENCH DEFENSE WHICH HAVE BEEN IN
PREPARATION FOR THE LAST FEW WEEKS. SOURCE REFUSED
TO BE DRAWN INTO DISCUSSION ABOUT SPECIFIC QUESTIONS
LIKELY TO BE ADDRESSED BY GISCARD BUT GAVE THE CLEAR
IMPRESSION THAT THE ELYSEE IS ATTACHING CONSIDERABLE
IMPORTANCE TO THIS INTERVIEW.

3. AS WE HAVE REPORTED, GISCARD ORDERED A THOROUGH
REVIEW OF FRENCH DEFENSE POLICY LAST FALL WHICH HAS
PRODUCED LITTLE IF ANY CHANGE IN FRENCH STRATEGY SO FAR,
ALTHOUGH FRENCH ARE NOW PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO MORALE
SITUATION THAN IN THE PAST.

4. TIMING OF THE INTERVIEW IS INTRIGUING AND INVITES
SPECULATION ABOUT THE FACTORS WHICH MAY HAVE
DETERMINED IT. THE FOLLOWING COME TO MIND:

(A) GISCARD MAY BE SEEKING WAYS TO DIVERT PUBLIC
ATTENTION FROM SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES THAT
DOMINATE DEBATES IN FRANCE TODAY, AND HOPES TO
ACCOMPLISH THIS BY ANNOUNCING SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN
FRENCH DEFENSE POLICY.

(B) A POLICY STATEMENT ON DEFENSE A SHORT TIME
BEFORE GISCARD'S SCHEDULED VISIT TO THE USSR MAY BE
DESIGNED TO SERVE NOTICE TO THE RUSSIAN LEADERS OF
FRANCE'S DETERMINATION TO DEFINE WITH COMPLETE
INDEPENDENCE ITS DEFENSE OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY AND
THEREBY CONTAIN ANY RUSSIAN EXPECTATIONS REGARDING
DEFENSE AS AN AGENDA ITEM FOR DISCUSSION IN MOSCOW.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 24865 02 OF 02 251724Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

OMB-01 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /073 W

----- 122002

R 251806Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3480

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 24865

(C) HE MAY WANT TO ELABORATE ON THE FUTURE ROLE OF A EUROPEAN DEFENSE ENTITY.

(D) HE MAY WANT TO LEND HIS WEIGHT TO THE UPCOMING BUDGET DEBATE WHICH WILL FOCUS FRENCH PUBLIC AND PARLIAMENTARY ATTENTION ON A DEFENSE BUDGET THAT IS LIKELY TO RECEIVE A LARGER SLICE OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 24865 02 OF 02 251724Z

THAN IN RECENT YEARS.

(E) ON THE EVE OF HIS USSR VISIT GISCARD MAY WANT TO REDRESS SITUATION HE CREATED BY HIS STATEMENT LAST MAY IN WHICH HE EXPLICITLY IDENTIFIED RUSSIAN SENSITIVITY TO THE IDEA OF A EUROPEAN DEFENSE SYSTEM AS A FACTOR TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY EUROPEAN LEADERS IN CONSIDERING SUCH AN APPROACH TO DEFENSE MATTERS. GISCARD'S STATEMENT AT THE TIME PROMPTED COLUMNISTS LIKE RAYMOND AARON TO COMMENT WITH ILL-

CONCEALED ALARM ABOUT GISCARD'S "APPARENT NAIVETE OR INEXPERIENCE" IN DEALING WITH THE RUSSIANS, AND QUALIFIED GISCARD'S STATEMENT AS "VOLUNTARY FINLANDIZATION."

5. FOREGOING ARE MORE REASONS TO WELCOME SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S VISIT SINCE HIS CALL ON PRESIDENT GISCARD WILL OFFER HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO GLEAN MORE THAN A CLUE REGARDING GISCARD'S CURRENT IDEAS ABOUT DEFENSE AND, HOPEFULLY, TO INFLUENCE DIRECTION OF GISCARD'S THINKING AT CRUCIAL POINT JUST BEFORE THIS MAJOR POLICY STATEMENT.
RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELEVISION BROADCASTING, DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS24865
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750333-0100
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750917/aaaaapcv.tel
Line Count: 182
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <26 SEP 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORT OF GISCARD'S TV INTERVIEW ON DEFENSE
TAGS: PFOR, FR, UR, (GISCARD D'ESTANG, VALERY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006